GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1458
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004
MINERAL EXPLORATION MNC
Panda Shri Prabodh;Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has proposed to allow the participation of multi-national companies (MNCs) in the field of mineral exploration;

(b) whether any proposal from the MNCs has been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals;

(d) whether the Government has issued any valid permit to the MNCs for Reconnaissance Operations in the States;

(e)if so, the details thereof;

(f)whether the Government has any proposal to set up mineral separation plant at Chavara (Kollam); and

(g)if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES(DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (e):Under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company registered in India can be granted a reconnaissance permit or prospecting licence o r mining lease for exploration or mining of minerals. As such, under the existing scheme of the mining legislation, a foreign company is not allowed to undertake reconnaissance/prospecting/mining operations till they get themselves registered in India and obtain a local corporate identity. On the recommendations of State Governments, approvals have been given by the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for grant of 165 reconnaissance permits in favour of Indian Companies many of which are the subsidiaries formed by foreign companies. The details are given in Annexure.

(f & g): As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of this Ministry, there is no proposal to set up a new plant for processing beach sands at Chavara. However, there are two existing companies viz. M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd., a State Undertaking and Indian Rare Earths Ltd., a Central Government Undertaking which are operating their mineral beach sands separation plants at Chavara, Kollam district, Kerala. Department of Atomic Energy has informed that Indian Rare Earths Ltd., its public sector undertaking, has plans to expand the capacity of mining and mineral separation at Chavara at an estimated cost of about Rs. 50 crores.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1458 for 16/7/2004 asked by S/Shri Prabodh Panda and P.Rajendran regarding Mineral Exploration MNC

S. No.	Name of the Company	No. of R.P.s approved by Central Government	States in which R.P.s approved by Central Government	R.Ps in the State under R.Ps(in sq. Kms)	No. of granted R.Ps	Aarea granted under R.Ps (in sq. Kms)	Total area
1.	M/s. De-Beers & subsidiary companies	24	Karnataka	5	7784.22	37891.22	
			A.P.	8	9929		
			Chhattisgarh	5	8975		
			Orissa	5	9613		
			M.P.	1	1590		
2.	M/s ACC Rio Tinto Exploration Ltd.	24	Karnataka	6	9989.56	41084.25	
			A.P.	4	9330		
			M.P.	4	9621.69		
			Chhattisgarh	6	7960		
			Orissa	4	4183		

3.	M/s Geo Mysore Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.	24	Karnataka A.P. Chhattisgarh	10 7 3	3278 3425 3270	15128	M.P	4	5155		
4.	M/s AMIL Mining India Pvt. Ltd.	7	A.P. Orissa	6 1	6514.11 128.06	6642.17					
5.	M/s Metmin Finance and Holding Pvt. Ltd.	7	Karnataka Rajasthan M.P.	2 4 1	1202.5 2035.872 1330	4568.372					
6.	M/s Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd.	4	Karnataka	4	7629.02	7629.02					
7	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	4	Rajasthan	4	1845.3775	1845.3775					
8.	M/s Exploration Enterprise India Pvt. Ltd.(new name of M/s Phelps Dodge Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.)	17	U.P. Rajasthan A.P. Jharkhand Orissa	2 9 4 1 1	1166.171 7703.195 6945 1869.687 3409.80	21093.853					
9.	M/s Pasminco Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	5	Rajasthan	5	9955.544	9955.544					
10.	M/s Ramgad Minerals and Mining Pvt. Ltd.	1	Karnataka	1	1233.05	1233.05					
11.	M/s National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC)	4	A.P. Karnataka M.P.	1 2 1	2300 1995.82 2010	6305.82					
12.	M/s Lake Resources Holding India Pvt. Ltd.	3	Rajasthan	3	4500.195	4500.195					
13.	M/s BHP Minerals India Pvt. Ltd.	18	Haryana Madhya Pradesh Karnataka Orissa Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh	1 2 2 4 4 5	401 3156.64 3836.5 8567.231 7112 9693	32766.371					
14.	M/s Anglo American Exploration (India) Pvt. Ltd.	12	Rajasthan Andhra Pradesh West Bengal	8 3 1	7204.95 8046 377	15627.95					

15. Shri B.K.Druva Rao, Dir (Indophil Resources Exploration Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.)	3	Karnataka	3	5496.68	5496.68
16. M/s Minpro Corporation	2	Karnataka	2	316.25	316.25
17. M/s B.Vijay Kumar Technical Services Pvt. Ltd.	1	Chhattisgarh	1	2400	2400
18. M/s Mira Exploration Pvt. Ltd.	1	Chhattisgarh	1	481.25	481.25
19. M/s Emperor Granite Pvt. Ltd.	2	Chhattisgarh	2	3000	3000
20. M/s Krystal Stone Incorporation	1	Rajasthan	1	271.93	271.93
21. M/s WSIL Mineral Sand India Pvt. Ltd.	1	Andhra Pradesh	1	1428	1428
TOTAL	165			2,19,665.303	